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FROM: Athens

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 421, October 2, 7 p.m.

Control: 1866
Rec'd: October 2, 1962
8:00 p.m.

ACTION DEPARTMENT 421, INFORMATION PARIS 36.

PARIS FOR USRO

Subject shipments to Cuba on Greek vessels has been raised recently with Greek Government on several occasions. Although initially GOG under pressure from shipping interests and local public opinion seemed reluctant to grasp this nettle, following on US approaches GOG assumed more realistic stance. Yesterday Greek Government made following official announcement on subject:

"In view of international tension created around issue Cuba and dangers involved for Western world, Greek Government, both in accordance international position of Greece and in order to protect Greek shipping from risks that shipment of goods to Cuba would entail, has explicitly recommended to all Greek shipowners that they abstain from chartering their ships for transport of strategic goods of whatever origin to Cuba."

Government feels certain that Greek shipowners, assessing importance of reasons for this recommendation, will conform to it, and none will endanger interests of nation for sake of personal interests.

Government reserves right to control, within framework of Greek law, adherence of Greek shipowners to these instructions."

Embassy Officer last week raised with Ministry Merchant Marine
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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-2- 421, October 2, 7 p.m. from Athens

question of bunkering and overloading of ships destined for Cuba. [Result this approach was that] instructions have been sent to personnel at all bunkering stations in Greece that all ships must conform to international safety standards on load lines.

Embassy will continue pursue matter shipments to Cuba with GOG.

LABOUISSSE

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